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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963.



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FOR THE YEAR

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Divisional Health Offices,

Brogden Street,

Ulverston.

August, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1963	10,490
Number of inhabited houses	3,390
Rateable Value	£322,985
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1235.

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, and light engineering. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1963 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 146 live births registered during 1963, 69 were males of which 1 was illegitimate and 77 were females, of which 3 were illegitimate.

Approximately 75.1% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 70, Vascular lesions of nervous system 50 and Malignant growths, 19. Of the 70 deaths from Heart disease, 55 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	Neo-Natal	
1963	146	13.9	185	17.6	3	20.1	Nil	Nil	3	20.5	1	6.8
1962	154	14.7	161	15.4	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	5	32.5	4	26.0
1961	140	13.5	138	13.3	3	21.0	Nil	Nil	1	7.1	Nil	Nil
1960	162	15.6	159	15.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	6.2	1	6.2
1959	142	13.6	158	15.2	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958	139	13.4	157	15.1	1	7	Nil	Nil	3	21.6	2	14.4
Average 5 years 1958-62	-	14.2	-	14.9	-	8.3	-	-	-	13.5	-	9.3

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 15.2 per 1,000

Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.85) = 15.0 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	<u>England and Wales</u>		<u>Ulverston Urban District</u>	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1963	17.3	12.2	15.2	15.0
1962	18.0	11.9	14.8	13.5
1961	17.4	12.0	13.6	11.4
1960	17.1	11.5	15.7	12.7
1959	16.5	11.6	13.8	12.7

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District
Grange-over-Sands Urban District
North Lonsdale Rural District

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.
Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is now responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

No new sources of supply were acquired during the year. Small extensions were made to the mains to supply new houses and a duplicate main was laid along Priory Road to augment the supply to Bardsea Village and the expanding industry in Priory Park.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Samples for bacteriological examination are taken by the Furness Water Board and copies of the results are sent to me by the Public Health Laboratory.

During the year 42 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year, 3,378 houses were supplied direct; 6 were supplied by standpipes and 6 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1963 there were approximately 3,370 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 7,000 fresh water closets.

HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-

Houses	Flats
11	18
Nil	Nil
16	Nil

- (1) By the local authority
- (2) By other local authorities
- (3) By other bodies or persons

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year

1010

(3) Inspections of dwellings during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 105
- (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 153
- (c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 56
- (2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-
 - (a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time) Nil
 - (b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made 56

(4) Houses Demolished:-

In Clearance Areas:

- (1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.
- (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957

Not in Clearance Areas:

- (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health
- (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts
- (7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders

<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
5	17	7
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
11	41	15
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-

- (1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957
- (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957

<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
3	3	2
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(1) After informal action by local authority	20	-
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	1	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil

(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):- Nil

(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ... Nil

(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement grants, etc.

No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -

Action taken during the year:-

	<u>Private Bodies or individuals</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	10	-
(2) Approved by local authority	7	-
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	1	1
(4) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	1
(5) Work completed	1	Nil
(6) Additional separate dwellings included in (5) above	Nil	Nil

(10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants:-

Action during year:

- (1) Applications submitted to local authority
- (2) Applications approved by local authority
- (3) Work completed

<u>No. of dwellings or other buildings affected</u>
44
41
33

SPECIAL HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

The second stage of the scheme for providing special housing accommodation for the aged was completed during the year. The Fell Close scheme, as it has been named, is now complete and comprises 20 one-bedroomed bungalows, a common room, a guests' bedroom and a bungalow for the warden. Each bungalow is connected to the warden's bungalow by a call bell.

At the end of the year work had started on the building of flats for old people in Soutergate, which will be a similar warden-guarded scheme.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Number of cases in year					1963		
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	337	139	89	90	23	192	0	0
Whooping cough	10	1	3	5	0	12	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	11	0	4	2	0	1	0	0
Para-typhoid fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	360	142	100	97	24	205	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

There was 1 new case of tuberculosis notified during 1963 but no deaths from this disease.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

1. Premises	Number on Register	Number of:-		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	Nil	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	57	Nil	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker premises)	1	-	Nil	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:- Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned Acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

The removal of unfit property and repair and improvement of other houses continues to be one of the major tasks and one which will continue for many years. In 1955 the provisional list of proposed slum clearance property revealed that some 220 houses were then unfit for human habitation and that a large number of other houses were sub-standard and would require further consideration. In the eight years since, 126 houses have been demolished, 50 closed for habitation and 15 others made fit or converted for use other than housing. In 1963 the point was reached when the major part of the first stage of slum clearance was completed and it was possible to again review the sub-standard houses previously envisaged as likely to be unfit by this time.

During the past year five houses in Outcast Clearance Area were demolished by the owner and nine houses in Tyson Square, previously acquired by the Council, and the last two M.A.P. bungalows were also demolished.

Seven houses situated between the Ribble Bus Station and Britannia Inn in the Ellers was approved as a Clearance Area and a Compulsory Purchase Order submitted for confirmation.

The above properties virtually concluded the majority of houses included in previous proposals for dealing with as clearance areas, many of which were taken from lists of unfit houses for slum clearance prepared in the late 1930's.

Brewery Street Clearance Area of 21 houses contains some properties included in the early proposals and since closed for habitation and also houses listed for consideration during the second stage of slum clearance. This is the largest single area so far dealt with and a Compulsory Purchase Order has been submitted for confirmation. If the necessary approval for acquisition is given the cleared site is intended to be used as a car park or as a bus station and car park.

The temporary bungalows in Green Lane Estate, also not in the first proposals, had reached the end of their useful life mainly because further repairs and replacement of parts could not be made. 18 families have been re-housed from these and the bungalows will be demolished in due course.

Commencement of the trunk road scheme has enabled other unfit houses to be dealt with. Three houses in Knights Yard have been closed and will be demolished when road works reach that area. Tenants from other houses affected have been re-housed and these properties several of which were sub-standard and others back-to-back type are also scheduled for demolition.

A total of 24 families comprising 61 persons have been re-housed during the year as a result of slum clearance.

The improvement of houses by way of Improvement Grants has been satisfactory. Seven discretionary and 41 standard grants were approved and in 34 cases all work was completed. Once again nearly all the applications were in respect of owner occupied houses and although the improved property will provide a better standard of housing the few applications for improvement of

tenanted houses is not at present achieving anything like the progress required to provide a universal standard.

The Rent Act provisions for certificates of disrepair was thought, after serving a useful period during authorised rent increases, to be of little further use. However, four certificates were granted during 1963 and one certificate previously granted in 1957 was cancelled.

The number of complaints of defects or unfitness in houses not considered for slum clearance was again very low and in all cases the necessary repairs were completed with only one formal notice being necessary. There is often delay in the completion of remedial works but this in the majority of cases is due to builders and contractors being actively engaged on other building work.

Some progress has been made in improving the sanitation of cottages around the town area. The number of houses without an internal water supply has been reduced from 14 to 6 and of these, one will be demolished in the near future and four others are to have an internal service when other improvements are undertaken. Five houses using pail closets were demolished but 13 houses beyond the Council's drainage area still use privy closets or pail closets. As a water supply has been provided in the Next Ness Area an attempt was made to persuade the owner to provide water closets with the necessary septic drainage, but so far unsuccessfully. It is intended to proceed with this improvement in 1964 and also eliminate the remaining privy middens, now mainly at farm property, wherever possible.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The total number of animals inspected at the Council Public Abattoir was approximately the same as last year, there being an increase in the number of cattle but decrease in sheep and lambs. It is still significant to point out that the amount of meat produced from here is greatly in excess of the Urban District's requirements and it is conceivable that this is supplying a population of over 17,000. This of course necessitates a considerable proportion of time being spent on inspection and management of the premises and consequently reduces the amount of time for routine duties of a different nature. The premises continue to be used by 12 butchers, five of whom are from adjacent rural areas, and almost all the slaughtering is carried out by the Councils' slaughtermen.

The vast majority of animals sent for slaughter are young prime cattle and sheep bred specifically for meat and very little disease is found. 21 carcasses were wholly condemned the majority arriving as casualty animals having suffered injury or accident previously. Cirrhotic liver is still a major complaint in beef animals and something like 70% of the cattle are affected to a greater or lesser degree. Tuberculosis was not found in any animal during the year. Two bullock carcasses found to be affected by Cysticercous Bovis were detained in cold storage for three weeks, in accordance with regulations, before being released for sale.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	1458	139	201	3725	1662	Nil
Number Inspected	1458	139	201	3725	1662	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	3	3	13	2	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	28	15	-	12	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	1.2%	12.9%	1.4%	0.7%	1.4%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	Nil	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-

184 visits of inspection have been made to food premises. Successful legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a food shop for failure to provide proper washing facilities and a fine of £5 for this offence was imposed by the magistrates. In 12 other instances where certain provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were not being complied with informal action resulted in the necessary works being carried out without delay.

Once again the actual process of shrimp picking at registered dwelling houses was only observed very occasionally but at least on each visit the premises themselves were found to be satisfactory. Although 18 houses are registered, at only about four is the work carried out frequently and it would appear that the others are mainly used during odd occasions when there is a glut of shrimps.

Some 276 lbs. of tinned food, meat and chicken from food shops was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

The investigation of incidents of Brucella organisms in milk was continued from the previous year when two farms within the area were found to be affected. At one farm where bulk samples had been positive, individual samples of milk from each of the 35 cows in the herd were submitted for analysis but all were found to be negative for Brucella. Further bulk samples since have also been negative. At the second farm, samples of milk from 51 cows revealed that nine

animals were secreting Brucella organisms. With the co-operation of the farmer, these cows were withdrawn from the herd used for sale of raw milk and an assurance given that the animals would be sent for slaughter at the conclusion of their present lactation. Samples taken later from the raw milk as sold by retail were satisfactory.

As there is no control over the movements of cows found to be Brucella excretors, and they may be freely sold to other dairy farms, it is becoming necessary to take more frequent samples of milk to ensure that raw milk is satisfactory. The obvious answer is a national policy, similar to the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme, whereby re-actors could be recorded and slaughtered, or make pasteurisation compulsory for the whole area until such time as other adequate measures can be put into being. This would not only cover this particular public health problem but also assist a farmer who is endeavouring to build up and maintain a healthy herd of dairy cows.

24 other samples of milk were submitted for analysis and of these, two failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness. Visits to the farm were carried out and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. These 24 samples were all negative to the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis tests.

Rodent Control.

A total of 687 premises were inspected for the presence of rats or mice and in consequence 332 premises were found to be infested. 1198 inspections and re-inspections were required during these treatments. The anti-coagulant poison, Warfarin, has been used almost solely for controlling vermin and in addition to being most effective is relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals. Contracts are still maintained on farm lands and most industrial premises, and other traders have arranged for periodical inspections of their premises to take place without prior notification.

Five Council and three other houses were disinfested because of insects, mainly ants or cockroaches which had become a serious nuisance in the kitchen or pantry.

Atmospheric Pollution.

15 observations of the amount of smoke emitted from the five factory chimneys was carried out. One hospital chimney is the cause of some unnecessary pollution and although visual and automatic aids have been installed the amount of dark smoke continues to be higher than reasonable.

It would appear that in view of the national shortage of certain smokeless fuels, smokeless zones, suggested in previous reports are not yet practicable in Ulverston. However it is hoped that this scheme may go forward sometime in the future when conditions are more favourable.

J.K. YATES.

Public Health Inspector.



